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OMB-2026-0210

14th August 2026

NS Hudson

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Dear NS Hudson

I refer to your complaint to the Ombudsman regarding the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) responses to your requests of 20 June and 24 July 2024. Following consultation with the Office of the Ombudsman, it has been determined that the following summary of the NZDF representative's report concerning the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office (ARRO) hosted inaugural FVEYs Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) meeting at the Pentagon on 24 May 2023, can be released to you:

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the AARO and then each agency and FVEY partners were asked to provide and update on UAP. The NZDF representative that attended the meeting advised that the NZDF does not have the remit to support UAP activities.

As previously advised, details of the representative's role and other information are withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand. The NZDF has no role or responsibility relating to unidentified aerial phenomenon or unidentified flying objects and holds no relevant information.

In 2010, the NZDF released to public libraries fifteen volumes containing all accumulated correspondence then held relating to reports of unidentified aerial phenomenon or sightings / unidentified flying objects from 1952 to 2009 inclusive, suitably redacted to protect individual privacy. Copies of this information were provided to: the Dunedin Public Library; the Hamilton Public Library; the Marlborough District Libraries; the Alexander Turnbull Library; and Infofind (the Radio New Zealand library). That information was then destroyed by the NZDF.

While no UAP reports are held by the NZDF, a search of all correspondence from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2026 was undertaken using the terms "UFO", "UAP", "Unidentified Flying Object", "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena" to identify if any had been sent to relevant authorities. This produced nil results.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF